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SENATE RESOLUTION 228
By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize the Summer Lacrosse League and honor and commend Dan and Holly Cooper for their involvement with the League.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those organizations that provide recreational activities for the communities of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Nashville Summer Lacrosse League is one such organization that sponsors divisions for youth, teens, and men; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, John Baer, originally of Long Island, New York, founded the Nashville Summer Lacrosse League; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Baer's contagious passion for the sport of lacrosse ignited both the varsity program at Montgomery Bell Academy and the Summer League at a time when lacrosse was not well known in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in the first year of its existence, the League had about thirty players playing on four teams, all in the fifteen and older age range; they played seven-on-seven rather than the standard ten-on-ten; and

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WHEREAS, after a few years, younger players began to take interest and a fourteen and under age group was added; more and more players joined every year as the sport began to take on a life of its own in Nashville, and by 2000, the league had grown to just under two hundred players, playing the full ten-on-ten game; and

WHEREAS, in early 2001, John Baer accepted a job out of state, and he left the Lacrosse League in the highly capable hands of Dan Cooper, the new owner of the Montgomery Bell Academy's League; and

WHEREAS, an eighth grade Lacrosse Coach for Montgomery Bell Academy and native of Rochester, New York, Mr. Cooper had agreed to take on the challenge of running the league despite the fact that he had little time to organize his new team; however, his lifelong exposure to lacrosse coupled with his natural charisma pulled together a Summer Lacrosse League that exceeded the previous ten years in professionalism and attendance; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the League had over two hundred fifty players sign up before Dan Cooper had to cut off registration; the record turnout was an unexpected, welcome surprise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper quickly set out to improve the League, adding referees, coaches, and a concession stand, run by his fiancée, Holly; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the summer, Dan and Holly married and began planning the next season, officially forming a company, Let's Play, LLC; and

WHEREAS, with Holly Cooper to organize the books, Dan Cooper could fully devote his time and energies to the League; he restructured the Summer Lacrosse League to allow more people the opportunity to play; and

WHEREAS, together in 2002, the Coopers published a Web site and marketed the League strictly through word of mouth and its presence on the Internet; players now have the ability to print registration forms and view their team's roster, games' schedule, and league standings online; in addition, they have gained the ability to contact Dan and Holly Cooper via e-mail; and

WHEREAS, by the first day of the League, there were three hundred seventy players, ranging in age from eleven to fifteen and older, signed up to play with the League; since then, almost thirty more have joined the League; and

WHEREAS, with the newly revamped League, the Coopers had found a way to capture Nashville's growing love for lacrosse and translate it into a fun weekday event, with training where needed and good old-fashioned competition for players of all skill levels; and

WHEREAS, the league has grown from a group of guys playing little more than a series of pick-up games to a six-week long daily social event, where parents do not merely congregate to watch their sons, but children watch their fathers, players compete alongside their coaches, and brothers have a chance to battle it out on the field with friends old and new across the Nashville Metro area and its surrounding counties; and

WHEREAS, for Dan and Holly Cooper, the Lacrosse Summer League begins in March and runs through the end of July; although organizing four hundred athletes of such diverse age and talent is no easy task, the Coopers are truly thankful that their efforts are rewarded by the spectacle of so many people having fun; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we recognize the success of the Nashville Summer Lacrosse League and honor and commend Dan and Holly Cooper for their hard work and determination that has ensured the success of the League.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.